lysolecithin having the hydroxyl group at the 2-position of glycerol; m is the average number of bonds of lysolecithin to one molecule of superoxide dismutase which is a positive number of 1 or more.

A 1 contd

18. (Amended) A method for inhibiting a reduction of superoxide dismutase activity or for controlling appearances of peaks of analogues when analyzing the superoxide dismutase by column chromatography comprising making sucrose coexist with lecithin-modified superoxide dismutase represented by the following general formula (I):

$$SOD' (Q - B)_m \qquad (I)$$

wherein SOD' is a residue of the superoxide dismutase; Q is a chemical crosslinking; B is a residue without a hydrogen atom of a hydroxyl group of lysolecithin having the hydroxyl group at the 2-position of glycerol; m is the average number of bonds of lysolecithin to one molecule of superoxide dismutase which is a positive number of 1 or more.

REMARKS

The present amendment attends to the following matters by way of steps toward placing the claims in better condition for U.S. practice: any case of a multiple dependent claim depending from another multiple dependent claim has been eliminated; "characterized" has been replaced with wording suitable for U.S.

practice; superfluous parentheses have been deleted; because under U.S. practice a treatment agent for treating a disease comprising a drug composition per se is not distinguishable from the drug composition itself, claims 15 and 16 have been changed to method of treating format.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX I

AMENDED CLAIMS WITH AMENDMENTS INDICATED THEREIN BY BRACKETS AND UNDERLINING

1. (Amended) A drug composition [characterized by including] comprising a drug carrier and a lecithin-modified superoxide dismutase represented by the following general formula (I) and having following characteristics (a) to (d):

$$SOD' (Q - B)_m \qquad (I)$$

[(characterized in that] wherein SOD' is a residue of superoxide dismutase[:]; Q is a chemical crosslinking; B is a residue without a hydrogen atom of a hydroxyl group of lysolecithin having the hydroxyl group at the 2-position of glycerol; m is an average number of bonds of lysolecithin to one molecule of superoxide dismutase which is a positive number of 1 or more[)];

(a) property: when water for injection is added to one which lyophilized the drug composition, the one is dissolved with no insoluble foreign substances;

(b) stability: when a superoxide dismutase activity per unit weight immediately after lyophilizing the drug composition is set as 100, relative values of the activity [at the time points] after the lyophilized drug composition is stored at 8°C for 12 months, 25°C for 12 months or 40°C for 6 months are all 97% or more;

(c) peaks of analogues in gel filtration chromatography: when the lyophilized drug composition is re-dissolved and submitted to gel filtration

chromatography and absorbance of the eluates is measured at 220 nm, no substantial difference is observed between a peak shape of lecithin-modified superoxide dismutase on a detection chart of the absorbance and a peak shape of lecithin-modified superoxide dismutase before lyophilization; and

(d) peaks of analogues by reversed phase chromatography: when the lyophilized composition was re-dissolved [at the time points] after it is stored at 8°C for 12 months, 25°C for 12 months or 40°C for 6 months and submitted to reversed phase chromatography and absorbance of the eluates is measured at 220 nm and 270 nm, each amount of detected analogues is not substantially different from that immediately after lyophilized.

2. (Amended) The drug composition according to claim 1 [characterized by maintaining] wherein all properties according to claim 1 [at any time points] remain after the lyophilized composition is stored at 8°C for 36 months, 25°C for 36 months or 40°C for 6 months.

3. (Amended) The drug composition according to claim 1 or 2 [characterized in that] wherein the analogues are substances generated by cleavage of a lecithin part of lecithin-modified superoxide dismutase.

4. (Amended) The drug composition according to [any of claims] claim 1 [to 3, characterized in that] or 2 wherein a fatty acid content in the drug composition is 0.13-0.15 μmol/mg protein.

5. (Amended) The drug composition according to [any of claims] claim 1 [to 4 characterized in that a] or 2 wherein the drug carrier [is] comprises sucrose.

6. (Amended) The drug composition according [to any of claims] claim 1 [to 5 characterized in that] or 2 wherein Q is -C (O) - $(CH_2)_n$-C(O) - [(wherein], n [is] being an integer of 2 or more[])].

7. (Amended) The drug composition according to [any of claims] claim 1 [to 6 characterized in that] or 2 wherein SOD' is a residue of human superoxide dismutase.

8. (Amended) The drug composition according to [any of claims] claim 1 [to 7 characterized in that] or 2 wherein SOD' is a residue of a modified form of superoxide dismutase in which an amino acid in 111-position of an amino acid sequence of human superoxide dismutase is converted into S-(2-hydroxyethylthio) cysteine.

9. (Amended) The drug composition according to claim 7 [or 8 characterized in that] wherein the superoxide dismutase [is the one containing] contains copper and zinc at the active center.

10. (Amended) The drug composition according to [any of claims] claim 6 [to 9 characterized in that] wherein n is an integer of 2 to 10.

11. (Amended) The drug composition according to [any of claims] claim1 [to 10 characterized in that] or 2 wherein m is a positive number of 1 to 12.

12. (Amended) The drug composition according to [any of claims] claim 5 [to 11 characterized in that] wherein the sucrose [is the one] has been treated with activated charcoal.

13. (Amended) The drug composition according to [any of claims] claim 1 [to 12 characterized in that it is a form of a lyophilized] wherein the drug composition is lypholized.

14. (Amended) The drug composition according to [any of claims] claim 5 [to 13 characterized in that] wherein a weight ratio of [lecithinized] the lecithin-modified superoxide dismutase to sucrose is 0.4/100–60/100.

15. (Amended) A [treatment agent] method for [diseases] treating a disease comprising administering the drug composition according to [any of claims] claim 1 [to 14] or 2.

16. (Amended) The [treatment agent] method according to claim 15 [characterized in that] wherein the disease is a motor neuron disease or ulcerative gastrointestinal injury.

17. (Amended) An agent having sucrose as an active ingredient for inhibiting a reduction of superoxide dismutase activity or for controlling appearances of peaks of analogues when analyzing the superoxide dismutase by column chromatography by making sucrose coexist with lecithin-modified superoxide dismutase represented by the following general formula (I):

$$SOD'\ (Q - B)_m \qquad (I)$$

[(characterized in that] wherein SOD' is a residue of the superoxide dismutase[:] ; Q is a chemical crosslinking; B is a residue without a hydrogen atom of a hydroxyl group of lysolecithin having the hydroxyl group at the 2-position of glycerol; m is the average number of bonds of lysolecithin to one molecule of superoxide dismutase which is a positive number of 1 or more[)].

18. (Amended) A method for inhibiting a reduction of superoxide dismutase activity or for controlling appearances of peaks of analogues when analyzing the superoxide dismutase by column chromatography [by] comprising making sucrose coexist with lecithin-modified superoxide dismutase represented by the following general formula (I):

$$SOD' (Q - B)_m \qquad (I)$$

[(characterized in that] wherein SOD' is a residue of the superoxide dismutase[:]; Q is a chemical crosslinking; B is a residue without a hydrogen atom of a hydroxyl group of lysolecithin having the hydroxyl group at the 2-position of glycerol; m is the average number of bonds of lysolecithin to one molecule of superoxide dismutase which is a positive number of 1 or more[)].